

I would raise taxes mainly on the rich to get out of debt, and build low cost housing.

Lastly, crime I think we should hire more police officers and that would create more jobs.

In conclusion I think I would be a good president because of all the reasons.

(By Daniel Jugle)

If I were the president of the United States I would help the homeless more and I would try harder to reduce crime.

First, I would help the homeless more I would do this by giving them money, making more homeless shelters, and having more food drives.

Second, I would try harder to reduce crime I would do this by providing more police and having a strong Death Penalty.

In Conclusion, helping the homeless more and trying to reduce crime are the two things I would do first if I were president of the United States.

(By Jaffray McCarthy)

I think that government thinking in programs and creating new jobs needs restructuring.

Firstly, I would stop outrageous spending. One type of spending is congressional spending. One example of this is a congressman's frequent travel by transport plane, costing up to \$50,000*. Another type of spending is money for unneeded programs. One example of this was a funded program was to study how long it took ketchup to come out of a bottle*.

Secondly, I would use the money saved from the unneeded programs to create new jobs. One of the jobs I would create is construction crews to build low cost housing for poor people. Another job I would create is a street clean-up crew to clean streets from litter and graffiti.

In conclusion, these are my restructuring ideas. I think any reasonable person would agree with at least one idea.

REDUCE THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX

HON. CHARLIE ROSE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, last week I cosigned a letter to the President emphasizing my commitment to a reduction in the capital gains tax. This same letter also raised the specter of an increase in the minimum wage. I do not support an increase in the minimum wage at this time, but do hope the discussion on a reduction of the capital gains tax can be stimulated.

SAMANTHA McELHANEY: AN OUTSTANDING YOUNG STAR

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 1995

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding talents of Ms. Samantha McElhaney, a resident of Clinton, MD and a recent graduate of Suitland High School in Prince Georges County.

As a student of the prestigious Performing Arts Magnet School Program at Suitland, Samantha studied opera, singing in both French and Italian. Not only is Ms. McElhaney

a gifted singer, but she is also a driven student and athlete. She enjoys studying biology, and has been recognized as a superior shot-putter and discus thrower. Outside of her vocal training, studying, and athletics, Ms. McElhaney has found the time to share her talents with the community by singing in the choir at Ebenezer AME Church in Fort Washington.

I am pleased to submit to my colleagues an article by David Montgomery which appeared in the Washington Post. It is my hope that this article will give further insight into the achievements and future of this talented young woman.

[From the Washington Post, June 1, 1995]

POWERFUL VOICE MAY CARRY 17-YEAR-OLD A LONG WAY

(By David Montgomery)

In the age of rock and rap, fine U.S. opera singers are rare, so it caused a stir when Samantha McElhaney was discovered recently in the practice studios of Suitland High School.

"She has the potential to be one of our great American opera singers," said Elayne Duke, president of the Rosa Ponselle Foundation, an opera talent underwriting group outside Baltimore. "This [talent] maybe will come along once in our lifetime."

"I would call her a *wunderkind*," said Myra Merritt, a Metropolitan Opera soprano who has taught McElhaney. "She has one of those dramatic, heroic, epic, full-throated voices that comes along once in a lifetime."

The object of all this effusion is a studious 17-year-old soprano from southern Prince George's County. She is no pampered diva. In her senior year at Suitland, she drives herself to achieve good marks in biology, her favorite subject. Last year she was one of the top high school shot-putters and discus throwers in the county. She can bench-press 185 pounds.

Most of all, she sings.

"I wake up and get in the shower, I'm singing," she said. "I'm walking around the house, and I'm singing."

At school, in addition to regular voice lessons, she spends her free time in the practice studio. Her teachers say McElhaney's voice is a remarkable gift, but it would have remained the vocal equivalent of an uncut diamond if she had not poured enormous work and study into her singing. Her gift has become her responsibility.

"She's very meticulous about her voice, her instrument," said Ronald Johnson, coordinator of visual and performing arts at Suitland. "She takes a lot of care and pride in her instrument."

McElhaney is one of many vocal talents nurtured at Suitland, which has a performing arts magnet program. The mellifluous singing in French and Italian that the audience hears during senior recitals is the most obvious clue that the rigorous art of opera is being passed down to a new generation.

"It is our opinion here at Suitland that our students must be versatile," Johnson said. "Along with the spirituals [and other musical styles], we want to make sure our students have a very strong background in classical music."

McElhaney's relationship with music goes way back. She could talk before she was a year old, and she started singing soon after. Her nickname, Mandy, bestowed by her dad, comes from the Barry Manilow song of the same name.

The family lives in Clinton. Robin McElhaney, her mother, is executive assistant to the president of a trade association, and Samuel McElhaney, her father, is a technical information specialist for the State De-

partment. McElhaney's sister, Adrienne, 13, has been admitted to Suitland's vocal program; she shows a talent for singing Broadway show tunes.

Growing up, McElhaney sang whenever the opportunity arose, in the middle school chorus, in the choir at Ebenezer AME Church in Fort Washington. Before she got to Suitland, music was just a hobby. Her main goal, even as a 12-year-old, was to make all the right moves that would lead to a good college. She considered music a means to that end. She realized she could use her singing to audition for Suitland's academically challenging magnet program. She sang "Amazing Grace" and passed the audition.

In McElhaney's junior year, her teachers noticed a significant change in her voice. By senior year, there was stunning improvement. Her voice had lost its "breathiness" and acquired a lyric timbre.

It was the voice of a much more seasoned performer than a 17-year old shower singer.

For the first time, McElhaney allowed herself to dream of a career as an opera singer.

This spring, she won the prestigious Rosa Ponselle Gold Medallion, named after one of the first great American divas, who lived in Baltimore.

At her senior recital last month, McElhaney was resplendent in a red dress with a black velvet jacket and a red handkerchief. Before the piano began each piece, she would bow her head, then she would look up and her face would appear transformed, becoming tragic, comic, coy, as befitted each selection.

The French and Italian lyrics soared and swooned and filled the auditorium.

To lend her performance authenticity, she imagined a private meaning for each piece that matched the emotion communicated by the composers. So, when she sang "Pur dicesti, o bocca bella," by Antonio Lotti, a spritely solo about a beloved and beautiful object, she was thinking "about me asking my father to get me a car, o bocca bocca bella!" she said.

She got six standing ovations. When the recital was over, Samuel McElhaney brought up a bouquet of roses for his daughter the diva.

The experts say she has the talent to become one of the great voices of her generation—but they add a big if.

"The next few years will be the most critical part of her life," said Duke, of the Ponselle foundation. "This is where she is going to develop as a singer or lose her voice altogether. That depends on where she will study and with whom she'll study."

Everyone has an opinion about how to manage the rising star's career. Duke thinks McElhaney ought to study with a private coach for two years, spend a year in Italy, make her debut at age 21 and never mind getting a college degree.

McElhaney, for her part, cares too much about college to forgo it. Besides, private opera coaches don't offer scholarships. She is leaning toward accepting a scholarship to New York University, which has a music program. If her opera dreams don't pan out, she'll have a degree to fall back on.

But she has faith in her gift: "I love singing, and I know it can carry me far."